THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated a scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO -LDO dealerships to the dependents/next of kin of the defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' (Kargil). Under this scheme, the number of persons who have been allotted LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 1.11.2003 was 30.

Impact of Global Oil Prices on Kerosene and LPG Prices

1487. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have reduced the prices of petrol and diesel taking advantage of fall in global oil prices while increasing the excise duties on these items to about three times of the original;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The impact of fall in global oil prices on the prices of kerosene and LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) effective 1.4.02, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) are fixing the selling prices of petrol and diesel themselves based on market considerations including changes in international prices. As regards , excise duties on petrol and diesel, the same have not been revised by the Government after 1.3.2003.

(c) As per the Government decision on dismantling of APM, the subsidy of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is to be on flat rate basis and after a ccounting for the same, the OMCs could vary the retail selling prices in line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic fuels of mass consumption. Post AMP, the average international prices of these products have remained quite high. Passing of higher international prices

of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies.

Dividend paid by oil companies

1488. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the dividend paid by Public Sector Oil Companies to Government during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the details of Central Taxes, duties etc. paid by the above companies during the same period;

(c) the amount collected through cess on oil produced by ONGC and OIL during the same period; and

(d) whether similar cess is paid by private oil producers, if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The dividend paid by public sector oil companies to the Government of India during the last three years is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The details of central taxes and duties paid by these companies during the last three years in given in Statement -II (*See* below).

(c) The amount of cess collected on oil produced by ONGC & OIL during the last three years was approximately Rs. 9641 crore.

(d) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NEPL) for exploration and production of oil and gas, both National Oil Companies (NOCs) namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), and private companies are exempted from payment of cess on crude oil under Oil Industry Development Act, 1974.

Under the discovered fields Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), contractors (including ONGC and OIL wherever they are consortium partners), are required to pay cess @ Rs. 900 per metric tonne on crude oil.